



DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **T-3**

January 26, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**TRAFFIC REGULATIONS AND RADAR SPEED ENFORCEMENT  
CASITAS AVENUE FROM ALTADENA DRIVE TO VENTURA STREET  
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5  
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Rescind a traffic regulation order establishing a 30-mph speed limit on Casitas Avenue between Altadena Drive and Ventura Street, as adopted on November 19, 1968, Altadena community (Supervisory District 5).
2. Adopt an Order instructing the Director of Public Works to coordinate with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to implement radar speed enforcement on Casitas Avenue between Altadena Drive and Ventura Street in the unincorporated County community of Altadena (Supervisory District 5).

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

We have completed a review of the speed limit for Casitas Avenue from Altadena Drive to Ventura Street. As a result, we recommend the use of radar speed enforcement for this residential street.

High-speed surveillance and pursuit expose the offender, law enforcement personnel, and the general public to increased accident potential. The use of radar will significantly reduce accident potential.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

This action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence, as implementation of these actions will address traffic operations and safety concerns of residents and motorists. In addition, radar enforcement significantly reduces speeding and accident potential caused by high-speed surveillance and pursuit and, therefore, will improve the quality of life in the County.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Sufficient funds are included in the Fiscal Year 2005-06 Road Fund Budget to cover the minor costs of removing and installing the necessary signs and markings. All expenses associated with the use of radar equipment and patrols will be borne by the CHP. The purpose for recommending adoption of this Order is solely to provide the CHP with Board authorization to implement radar for speed enforcement on Casitas Avenue from Altadena Drive to Ventura Street.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The California Vehicle Code authorizes your Board to rescind this traffic regulation, which is required prior to enforcement by the California Highway Patrol and Sheriff's Department.

The fronting residential density is sufficient for Casitas Avenue to be considered a residential district. Residential districts feature a prima facie speed limit of 25 mph unless changed by an Engineering and Traffic Study. Since Casitas Avenue is considered a residential district and a 25-mph speed limit is appropriate, the existing 30-mph speed limit regulation should be rescinded. In addition, since Casitas Avenue is classified as a local roadway on both the County Highway Master Plan and Federal Functional Usage Map, it is exempt from the speed trap law requiring an Engineering and Traffic Survey before utilizing radar enforcement.

On March 31, 1987, your Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the CHP for the expanded use of radar enforcement within the unincorporated County territory. The Memorandum of Understanding was revised and approved as an Agreement between the County of Los Angeles and the CHP by your Board on

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October 5, 1993. A key provision of the Agreement requires the use of radar on any additional routes be subject to mutual approval by the County of Los Angeles and the CHP. The proposed recommendation for the use of radar on this route is in conformance with this provision of the 1993 Agreement.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The establishment of these regulations and radar enforcement, including the installation of related traffic control devices required to notify the motoring public, is categorically exempt under Class I-(x)7 of the Environmental Guidelines approved by your Board.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Not applicable.

### **CONCLUSION**

At such time as this recommendation may be adopted, please return one copy of this adopted letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. WOLFE  
Director of Public Works

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cc: Chief Administrative Office  
County Counsel